



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 303

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5647

House of Representatives, March 31, 2008

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. FONTANA, S. of the 87th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUBSIDIZATION OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 28-24 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established an Office of State-Wide Emergency
4 Telecommunications which shall be in the Division of Fire, Emergency
5 and Building Services within the Department of Public Safety. The
6 Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications shall be
7 responsible for developing and maintaining a state-wide emergency
8 service telecommunications policy. In connection with said policy the
9 office shall:

10 (1) Develop a state-wide emergency service telecommunications
11 plan specifying emergency police, fire and medical service
12 telecommunications systems needed to provide coordinated
13 emergency service telecommunications to all state residents, including

14 the physically disabled;

15 (2) Pursuant to the recommendations of the task force established by
16 public act 95-318* to study enhanced 9-1-1 telecommunications
17 services, and in accordance with regulations adopted by the
18 Commissioner of Public Safety pursuant to subsection (b) of this
19 section, develop and administer, by July 1, 1997, an enhanced
20 emergency 9-1-1 program, which shall provide for: (A) The
21 replacement of existing 9-1-1 terminal equipment for each public safety
22 answering point; (B) the subsidization of regional public safety
23 emergency telecommunications centers, with enhanced subsidization
24 for municipalities with a population in excess of forty thousand; (C)
25 the establishment of a transition grant program to encourage
26 regionalization of public safety telecommunications centers; and (D)
27 the establishment of a regional emergency telecommunications service
28 credit in order to support regional dispatch services;

29 (3) Provide technical telecommunications assistance to state and
30 local police, fire and emergency medical service agencies;

31 (4) Provide frequency coordination for such agencies;

32 (5) Coordinate and assist in state-wide planning for 9-1-1 and E 9-1-
33 1 systems;

34 (6) Review and make recommendations concerning proposed
35 legislation affecting emergency service telecommunications; and

36 (7) Review and make recommendations to the General Assembly
37 concerning emergency service telecommunications funding.

38 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt regulations, in
39 accordance with chapter 54, establishing eligibility standards for state
40 financial assistance to local or regional police, fire and emergency
41 medical service agencies providing emergency service
42 telecommunications. Not later than April 1, 1997, the commissioner
43 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, in order to
44 carry out the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this

45 section. Such regulations shall provide that state financial assistance
46 distributed in accordance with said subdivision to any fire department
47 with an Insurance Service Office rating of class 1 shall not be reduced
48 based upon such department's use of a secondary answering point for
49 emergency telecommunications services.

50 (c) Within a time period determined by the commissioner to ensure
51 the availability of funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, to the
52 regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers within
53 the state, and not later than April first of each year thereafter, the
54 commissioner shall determine the amount of funding needed for the
55 development and administration of the enhanced emergency 9-1-1
56 program. The commissioner shall specify the expenses associated with
57 (1) the purchase, installation and maintenance of new public safety
58 answering point terminal equipment, (2) the implementation of the
59 subsidy program, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
60 this section, (3) the implementation of the transition grant program,
61 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, (4) the
62 implementation of the regional emergency telecommunications service
63 credit, as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section,
64 provided, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year
65 thereafter, such credit for coordinated medical emergency direction
66 services as provided in regulations adopted under this section shall be
67 based upon the factor of thirty cents per capita and shall not be
68 reduced each year, (5) the training of personnel, as necessary, (6)
69 recurring expenses and future capital costs associated with the
70 telecommunications network used to provide emergency 9-1-1 service
71 and the public safety services data networks, (7) for the fiscal year
72 ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal year thereafter, the collection,
73 maintenance and reporting of emergency medical services data, as
74 required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (8) of section
75 19a-177, provided the amount of expenses specified under this
76 subdivision shall not exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars in any
77 fiscal year, (8) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, and each fiscal
78 year thereafter, the initial training of emergency medical dispatch
79 personnel, the provision of an emergency medical dispatch priority

80 reference card set and emergency medical dispatch training and
 81 continuing education pursuant to subdivisions (3) and (4) of
 82 subsection (g) of section 28-25b, and (9) the administration of the
 83 enhanced emergency 9-1-1 program by the Office of State-Wide
 84 Emergency Telecommunications, as the commissioner determines to
 85 be reasonably necessary. The commissioner shall communicate the
 86 commissioner's findings to the chairperson of the Public Utilities
 87 Control Authority not later than April first of each year.

88 (d) The office may apply for, receive and distribute any federal
 89 funds available for emergency service telecommunications. The office
 90 shall deposit such federal funds in the Enhanced 9-1-1
 91 Telecommunications Fund established by section 28-30a.

92 (e) The office shall work in cooperation with the Department of
 93 Public Utility Control to carry out the purposes of this section.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 28-24 |

PS *Joint Favorable C/R*

ET

ET *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 09 \$ | FY 10 \$ |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| Public Safety, Dept. | E 9-1-1 Fund - Cost | 75,500 | 106,100 |

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 09 \$ | FY 10 \$ |
|----------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Milford | Savings | 75,500 | 106,100 |

Explanation

The bill increases funding to the Milford public safety emergency telecommunications center in the amount of \$75,500 in FY 09, \$106,100 in FY 10 and \$109,604 each fiscal year thereafter, to be funded from the Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telecommunications Fund. Currently, public safety emergency telecommunications centers that use a secondary answering point are eligible for partial state funding under a statutory formula. The bill would restore to full funding towns with fire departments with an Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating of class 1.

Milford is currently the only town in the state that fits such a description. To the extent that towns with a fire department ISO rating of 1 might switch to a secondary answering point emergency telecommunications center in the future, there is a potential cost savings for such a town and a potential cost to the E 9-1-1 Fund.

The Out Years

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 11 \$ | FY 12 \$ | FY 13 \$ |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Public Safety, | E 9-1-1 Fund - | 109,604 | 109,604 | 109,604 |

| | | | | |
|-------|------|--|--|--|
| Dept. | Cost | | | |
|-------|------|--|--|--|

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 11 \$ | FY 12 \$ | FY 13 \$ |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Milford | Savings | 109,604 | 109,604 | 109,604 |

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5647****AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUBSIDIZATION OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTERS.****SUMMARY:**

The law requires that Department of Public Safety (DPS) regulations establish (1) a transition grant program to encourage regionalization of public safety emergency telecommunications centers and (2) a regional emergency telecommunications service credit to support regional dispatch services. The current grant regulations reduce funding for each year that a town with a population of more than 40,000 continues to use a secondary answering point (i.e., a facility to which a public safety answering point (PSAP) transfers 9-1-1 calls instead of dispatching emergency response services or transferring the calls to another public agency).

Under this bill, the regulations cannot reduce funding for any fire department with a Insurance Service Office (ISO) class 1 rating because it uses a secondary answering point for emergency telecommunications services (currently Milford).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Services***

The law requires the public safety commissioner to develop and administer an enhanced E 9-1-1 system to, among other things:

1. subsidize regional public safety emergency telecommunications centers,

2. establish a transition grant program to encourage regionalization of public safety telecommunications centers, and
3. establish a regional emergency telecommunications service credit to support regional dispatch services.

The regulations define a (1) “regional emergency telecommunications center” as the PSAP responsible for receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls for at least three municipalities and (2) a “secondary answering point” as a facility to which a PSAP transfers 9-1-1 calls.

Under the regulations, municipalities with more than 40,000 people receive reduced E 9-1-1 funding, under a formula, for each year they continue to use secondary answering points. If they eliminate the secondary operation, the funding level is restored to the level calculated for a full service emergency telecommunications center. Withheld funds are held by the Office of State-Wide Emergency Telecommunications for three years and if the town does not consolidate its PSAPs in the three-year period, the funds are deposited in the E 9-1-1 Telecommunications Fund (Conn. Agency Regs. § 28-24-3).

Among the towns that have consolidated or are in the process of consolidating their PSAP operations pursuant to the law and regulations are Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.

ISO Rating

ISO is an independent organization that serves insurance companies, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk. It collects information on a community's public fire protection, analyzes the data using its fire suppression rating schedule, and assigns a public protection classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents exemplary, and class 10 indicates that a fire-suppression program does not meet the ISO minimum criteria, according to the ISO website. The two fire

departments in the state with ISO class 1 ratings are Hartford and Milford.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/04/2008)

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 1 (03/11/2008)